SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress   July 23, 1996, 4:06 pm
2nd Session   **Vote No. 228**   Page S-8506 Temp. Record

WELFARE REFORM RECONCILIATION/Alien Medicaid Ineligibility Delay

SUBJECT: **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 . . . S. 1956. Exon motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Exon (for Kennedy) amendment No. 4956.**

ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 35-64

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1956, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, will enact major welfare reforms. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program will be replaced with a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to the States. The TANF block grant will be capped through 2001. Time limits will be placed on individuals receiving TANF benefits. Overall, the growth in non-Medicaid welfare spending will be slowed to 4.3 percent annually. The bill originally included major Medicaid reforms, but most of those provisions were stricken when the bill was reported. Without those Medicaid reforms, welfare spending will still be reduced by $61.4 billion over 6 years.

   The Exon (for Kennedy) amendment would delay for 2 years the restrictions on legal immigrants receiving Medicaid benefits. Following debate, Senator Domenici raised a point of order that the amendment violated the Budget Act. Senator Exon then moved to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to waive opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to waive favored the amendment.

   Those favoring the motion to waive contended:

   Whether one is for or against the ban on legal immigrants receiving Medicaid, one should at least admit that the change is major and it is going to have a large effect on health care providers. In the case of public hospitals, most patients have Medicaid coverage, and in many of those hospitals immigrants comprise the majority of their patients. For example, 60 percent of Los Angeles County Hospital's patients are immigrants. A sudden loss of Medicaid coverage for immigrants will throw the future of these hospitals into jeopardy and will diminish the quality of health care for immigrants and non-immigrants alike. At a minimum, the health care system will need time to adjust. Community health centers will need time to find ways to expand, and State legislatures will need time to

(See other side)

YEAS (35)			NAYS (64)			NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans	**Democrats**		**Republicans**		**Democrats**	**Republicans**	**Democrats**
(4 or 8%)	**(31 or 66%)**		**(48 or 92%)**		**(16 or 34%)**	**(1)**	**(0)**
Chafee	Akaka	Kennedy	Abraham	Helms	Baucus	Kassebaum-[4]	
Hatfield	Biden	Kerry	Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bradley		
Jeffords	Bingaman	Kohl	Bennett	Inhofe	Breaux		
Specter	Boxer	Lautenberg	Bond	Kempthorne	Bryan		
	Conrad	Leahy	Brown	Kyl	Bumpers		
	Daschle	Levin	Burns	Lott	Byrd		
	Dodd	Mikulski	Campbell	Lugar	Dorgan		
	Exon	Moseley-Braun	Coats	Mack	Ford		
	Feingold	Moynihan	Cochran	McCain	Harkin		
	Feinstein	Murray	Cohen	McConnell	Heflin		
	Glenn	Pell	Coverdell	Murkowski	Kerrey		
	Graham	Robb	Craig	Nickles	Lieberman		
	Hollings	Sarbanes	D'Amato	Pressler	Nunn		
	Inouye	Simon	DeWine	Roth	Pryor		
	Johnston	Wellstone	Domenici	Santorum	Reid		
		Wyden	Faircloth	Shelby	Rockefeller		
			Frahm	Simpson			
			Frist	Smith			
			Gorton	Snowe			
			Gramm	Stevens			
			Grams	Thomas			
			Grassley	Thompson			
			Gregg	Thurmond			
			Hatch	Warner			

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:
 1—Official Buisiness
 2—Necessarily Absent
 3—Illness
 4—Other

SYMBOLS:
 AY—Announced Yea
 AN—Announced Nay
 PY—Paired Yea
 PN—Paired Nay

adopt new laws and to adjust spending to compensate for the loss of Medicaid. The Kennedy amendment would give them 2 years in which to make changes. We urge our colleagues to support this amendment.

Those opposing the motion to waive contended:

The Kennedy amendment would make the American taxpayers foot the medical bills of noncitizens for another 2 years. Noncitizens were never supposed to be able to take advantage of welfare programs in America, and there is broad support in Congress and in America to remove them from the welfare rolls not in 2 years, but now. We will not support a delay. We urge our colleagues to reject the motion to waive the Budget Act.